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*Patronage du Conseil Municipal.* This book deserved at least a mention because of the eminence of its author, the late Dr. Robinet, the biographer of Danton. One last word—M. Biré's judgment on his own book, may be added. He says rightly on page 72: "Il n'est pas de bon livre d'histoire sans *Index*." He has left this book without an index.

GEORGE M. DUTCHER.

*Histoire Politique de la Révolution Française: Origines et Développement de la Démocratie et de la République* Par A. AULARD. (Paris: Armand Colin. 1901. Pp. xii, 805.)

M. AULARD's book has a special claim upon attention because of his unique position among students of the great Revolution. For over fifteen years he has held a professorship with this as its theme in the faculty of letters of the University of Paris. He is the directing spirit of a society devoted to the study of the Revolution and the editor of the society's review. Since 1886 he has also edited several collections of documents, over twenty-five volumes in all.

His work is distinguished from that of most of his predecessors by a more scientific criticism of the sources. For example, he looks with suspicion upon the evidence contained in memoirs, because most of these were written during the Napoleonic period or the Restoration, when the memories of the writers must have become confused, and when they were, in part at least, preoccupied by the task of rehabilitating themselves in the eyes of posterity. The substance of his narrative is based upon strictly contemporaneous documents—debates, speeches, newspaper articles, proceedings, laws, many of which were acts rather than descriptions of acts. The inexhaustible patience with which he has investigated all this material has enabled him to trace the evolution of opinion and the aims which gave the impulse to the Revolutionary movements. The testimony of memoirs adds detail and color to facts, the main features of which have been otherwise determined.

The scope of the work is clearly stated in the title, limited as this is by the subtitle. The subtitle is a reminiscence of the articles that appeared in the *Révolution Française*, beginning in July, 1898, and which reappear with some changes and additions as chapters of the present work. For the period from August 10, 1792, to 1804, the scope of the work is broader and includes with the original theme a description of every important phase of the political life of France. But during the periods of the Constituent and the Legislative Assemblies the first plan seems to narrow the treatment. With the publication of this book it has become, for the first time, possible to read in brief and exact descriptions how the great Revolutionary mechanism was organized from the Convention and the Committee of Public Safety down to the local committees in the Paris sections or in distant communes, and how this mechanism was modified as circumstances commanded until during the Thermidorian reaction, the period of the Directory and of the Consulate, it gradually crumbled, again yielding to circumstances, and gave way to a military despotism.

The plan of the work—a study of the republic and democracy—seems to put the men of 1789, so generally praised in contrast to the men of 1793, in a curiously disadvantageous position. They appear not so much as reformers who extricated France from an intolerable situation as men who were unfaithful to the very Declaration of Rights which they issued. In a history of the republic they are the enemy who are more in mind than the old nobility, and who must be driven from control before a normal state of affairs can be brought about. The Montagnards, are, therefore, justified in advance. This result is not solely the consequence of the plan. Although the author says that all, the men of 1789 and the men of 1793, worked for the best under different circumstances, nevertheless he declares that if the epithet “renegade to the principles of 1789” is to be used, it belongs not to the men of 1793 who actually applied those principles, but to the men of 1789, “who, after proclaiming equality of rights, divided the nation into active and passive citizens and for the ancient privileged orders substituted a new privileged class, the *bourgeoisie*.”

Professor Aulard is not inclined to look upon the affirmation of the equality of men in the Declaration of Rights as a “glittering generality,” a noble dream; he treats it as a programme of reform to the furthest logical consequences of which its framers were pledged. He goes so far as to insist that this affirmation implied what is now known as social democracy, although he does not think such an implication occurred at the time to any leading revolutionist.

Occasionally Professor Aulard seems inclined to take less charitable views of the men of the “régime censitaire” than his documents would permit him. For example, he says (p. 63) that during the discussion of the property qualification for voters: “Une émeute parisienne (meurtre du boulanger François) fournit fort à propos des arguments à la bourgeoisie contre le peuple: le 21 octobre, la loi martiale fut votée au profit de l'ordre bourgeois qui s'annonçait.” Although the Constituant had such a measure under consideration, it was the frantic appeals of the “Representatives of the Commune,” in despair otherwise of preserving order so necessary if the great city was to be fed day by day, that led the Constituant to pass the law in haste. The motives indicated in this book do not appear to have actuated the Paris assembly. Even Loustallot, ardent revolutionist that he was, groaned out that the law was necessary. Professor Aulard's judgment in this case and in two or three others where the Constituant is concerned is surprising because between the parties that controlled France after the establishment of the republic he holds the balance with remarkable steadiness.

A single comment upon his treatment of the men commonly called the “Terrorists.” He does not draw a veil over their tyrannies, but he seems to feel that these were adopted, with substantially unmixed motives, as a means of national defense when France was like a besieged city and when summary proceedings were the sole and necessary law. It was, however, partly out of early tyrannies and injustices that the

necessity of later tyrannies arose. No foreigner at least will believe that such measures were needed to keep so great a multitude of Frenchmen as were swept into the drag-net of the Law of Suspects from betraying their country to the allies who were anxious to operate another partition of Poland with France as the spoil. Moreover, the "Terrorists" in a not unnatural way identified themselves with France, and their political enemies became traitors to France.

Although the greatest merit of this work lies in its bringing together an astonishing amount of information from trustworthy sources and describing the hitherto little known and imperfectly understood workings of the republican régime, it also contains descriptions of singular interest, appreciations of historic personages, of Danton, of Mme. Roland, of Robespierre—portraits drawn with a firm and skilful hand, which interpret their mental and moral evolution. In the course of the volume Professor Aulard destroys various old and honored legends—that for example which pictures Thermidorianism as in any sense a reaction against the republic, another that exonerates the so-called "working members" of the Committee of Public Safety and particularly Carnot from responsibility for the wholesale proscriptions of the Terror, and still another that makes republicanism an early development of the Revolutionary movement. Americans will be pleased to find the measure of the influence exerted by the young republics of the Confederation, later by the new United States, more exactly explained, with adequate documentary references, than in any previous work.

HENRY E. BOURNE.

*Boundaries of the United States and of the Several States and Territories.* By HENRY GANNETT. Second edition. (Washington: Government Printing Office. 1900. Pp. 142.)

IN 1885 Mr. Gannett issued, as one of the early bulletins of the United States Geological Survey, a sketch of the *Boundaries of the United States and of the Several States and Territories*. The compilation, though inaccurate in some details, was nevertheless a useful one. There was apparently considerable demand for it, since it has been for some time out of print. More recently Mr. Gannett has issued a second edition as number 171 of the same series of bulletins. The principal feature of the reissue is the addition of historical diagrams, representing the successive stages through which the several states and territories have passed. Mr. Gannett first printed these diagrams in 1896 to illustrate an article in the *Journal of the American Geographical Society* entitled "A Graphic History of the United States." They contain a number of errors, most of which have been repeated in a series of maps, illustrating a monograph on "The Territorial Expansion of the United States," published in the *Monthly Summary of Commerce and Finance* for September last and also issued separately. As these errors are likely still further to mislead, in view both of the high authority popularly attached to government publications and of the fact that they usually escape formal criticism, it seems worth while to call attention to them.